

IT IS DESIRED TO CLAIM AND SECURE BY LETTERS PATENT:

1. A workpiece-gripping device joinable adjacent the outer end of an elongate, ribbon-like and generally nominally planar linear measuring tape comprising

5 a gripper body having a generally planar body expanse with perimeter structure which generally circumsurrounds said body expanse, said perimeter structure being formed with plural, spaced, perimeter-distributed, workpiece-gripping projection elements, and

mounting structure joined to said body expanse, and accommodating mounting of the device on such a tape at a location adjacent the tape's outer end, and in such a manner that different workpiece-gripping projection elements that are present in said perimeter structure are operatively located on, and in spaced relation to, opposite sides of the tape's nominal plane, and with said elements generally extending toward the tape.

15 2. The device of claim 1, wherein said body expanse is generally circular, said perimeter structure is generally annular, and said projection elements are tooth-like in configuration.

20 3. The device of claim 1, wherein said body expanse has a perimeter structure which is generally polygonal, with plural, generally straight-linear rims that intersect at angles to form curves.

4. The device of claims 1 or 2 which is for use as a freely attachable object in relation to a conventional measuring-tape outer end structure of the kind having a lateral projection which extends one-sidedly, laterally and generally outwardly in a plane which is disposed at an angle relative to the plane of the tape per se, and said mounting structure
5 takes the form of a snap-capture arrangement adapted to receive, and generally lock into a defined relative fixed positional relationship with respect to, such a projection.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein said snap-capture arrangement takes the form of a displaced ribbon portion of said body expanse, which cooperates with other parts of the body, forms a channel designed to receive such a tape's outer end's lateral projection.

6. The device of claim 4 which is characterized, as well, by free selective detachability relative to such a tape's outer end's lateral projection.

7. A workpiece-gripping device joinable adjacent the outer end of an elongate, ribbon-like and generally planar linear measuring tape comprising

a gripper body including plural, generally line-following, distributed workpiece-engaging projection elements arranged generally in a kind of two-dimensional, long-path array, and

mounting structure joined to said body and accommodating mounting of the device on such a tape at a location adjacent the tape's outer end, and in a condition wherein projection elements in the body generally extend toward the tape, and are distributed generally in a laterally circumsurrounding fashion relative to the tape's long axis, and whereby workpiece gripping during use of the measuring tape can take place generally and selectively in substantially all longitudinally circumsurrounding regions near the tape's outer end.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein said body expanse is generally circular, said perimeter structure is generally annular, and said projection elements are tooth-like in configuration.

9. The device of claim 7, wherein said body expanse has a perimeter structure which is generally polygonal, with plural, generally straight-linear rims that intersect at angles to form curves.

10. The device of claims 7 or 8 which is for use as a freely attachable object in relation to a conventional measuring-tape outer end structure of the kind having a lateral projection which extends one-sidedly laterally and generally outwardly in a plane which is disposed at an angle relative to the plane of the tape per se, and said mounting structure
5 takes the form of a snap-capture arrangement adapted to receive, and generally lock into a defined relative fixed positional relationship with respect to, such a projection.

11. The device of claim 10 which is characterized as well by free, selective detachability relative to such a tape's outer end's lateral projection.

12. A workpiece-gripping device removably joinable selectively adjacent the outer end of an elongate, ribbon-like, and generally planar linear measuring tape, said device comprising

a generally planar gripper body which is formed with plural, spaced, distributed, workpiece-gripping projection elements, and

snap-fit mounting structure joined to said body and adapted for fitting of the device onto such a tape, with the plane of the gripper body substantially paralleling the
20 plane of the tape-end projection, and with said projection elements generally extending toward such a tape.

13. A tape-measuring device comprising

an elongate, ribbon-like and generally nominally planar measuring tape having an exposed free end, and

5 a workpiece gripping device joined to said tape adjacent the tape's said free end, said gripping device including

a gripper body having a generally planar body expanse with perimeter structure which generally circumsurrounds said body expanse, said perimeter structure being formed with plural, spaced, perimeter-distributed workpiece-gripping projection elements, and

mounting structure joined to said body expanse, and directly mounting said gripping device on said tape's free end in such a manner that different workpiece-gripping elements that are present in said perimeter structure are operatively located on, and in spaced relation to, opposite sides of the tape's nominal plane, with these elements generally extending toward said tape.

14. A workpiece-gripping device joinable adjacent the outer end of an elongate, ribbon-like and generally nominally planar, linear measuring tape, which tape includes a measurement-indicia side and a non-indicia side disposed on opposite sides of the tape's generally nominal plane, said device comprising

5 a gripper body including plural, generally arcuate, linearly distributed workpiece-engaging projection elements arranged generally in a kind of two-dimensional, long-path array, and

mounting structure joined to said body and accommodating mounting of the device as a whole on such a tape at a location adjacent the tape's outer end, and in a condition wherein the arcuate, linearly distributed projection elements generally extend toward the tape, and are deployed along a curved line which resides generally entirely on the non-indicia side of the tape relative to the tape's generally nominal plane.

15. A workpiece-gripping device joinable adjacent the outer end of an elongate, ribbon-like and generally nominally planar linear measuring tape, which tape includes lateral edges, and a measurement-indicia side, and a non-indicia side disposed on opposite sides of the tape's generally nominal plane and each extending between said lateral edges, said device comprising

a gripper body including plural, generally linearly distributed workpiece-engaging projection elements arranged generally in at least two, spaced, arcuate linear arrays, and

mounting structure joined to said body and accommodating mounting of the device as a whole on such a tape at a location adjacent the tape's outer end, and in a condition wherein at least two arcuate arrays of projection elements straddle the tape's generally nominal plane in two, laterally-spaced regions which are located near the tape's lateral edges, with said elements generally extending toward the tape.

16. A tape-measuring device comprising

an elongate, ribbon-like and generally nominally planar measuring tape having an exposed free end, and

a workpiece gripping device joined to said tape adjacent the tape's said free end,

5 said gripping device including

a gripper body including plural, generally arcuate, linearly distributed, workpiece-engaging projection elements arranged generally in a kind of two-dimensional, long-path array, and

mounting structure joined to said body, and directly mounting said gripping device on said tape's free end in such a manner that different workpiece-engaging elements that are present in said long-path array are operatively located on, and in spaced relation to, opposite sides of the tape's nominal plane, with these elements generally extending toward the tape.

17. A workpiece-gripping device removably joinable selectively adjacent the outer end of an elongate, ribbon-like, and generally planar linear measuring tape of the kind having a lateral projection which extends one-sidedly, laterally and generally outwardly, in a plane which is disposed at an angle relative to the plane of the tape per se,
5 said device comprising

a generally planar gripper body which is formed with plural, spaced, distributed, workpiece-gripping projection elements, and

10 snap-fit mounting structure joined to said body and adapted for removable snap-fitting of the device onto such a tape-end projection, with the plane of the gripper body substantially paralleling the plane of the tape-end projection, and with said projection elements generally extending toward such a tape.

15 18. The device of claim 17, wherein said mounting structure includes a swing tab that, with the device mounted on such a tape, accommodates swiveling of the device about an axis which is generally normal to the plane of the tape.

20 19. The device of claim 17 which further includes a removable soft-surface attachment which is removably attachable to said body substantially to mask, at least partially, the presence of said elements, and to promote soft-surface engagement between the device and a workpiece.